



National Methamphetamine Initiative Survey

The status of the methamphetamine threat and impact on Indian Lands

An Analysis

Prepared for Bureau of Indian Affairs
Law Enforcement Services

By: The New Mexico Investigative Support Center
An Initiative of the New Mexico High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

April 12, 2006

Project Summary

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Law Enforcement Services requested the assistance of various BIA and Tribal law enforcement agencies in identifying the threat level caused by methamphetamine production and use on tribal lands, the impact of methamphetamine on the communities and agencies involved and reporting the steps taken or being taken by these agencies to address the meth problem in Native American Communities.

The survey consisted of 20 questions, some allowing for multiple responses. The questions addressed such topics as whether methamphetamine or other drugs were considered the primary threat, the level of meth and meth precursor availability, demographics of those involved in meth production and distribution, and the impact that methamphetamine and crimes related to the drug were having on law enforcement agencies.

Over 150 surveys were submitted to Indian law enforcement agencies nationwide. 96 agencies responded. The following is an analysis of the respondents' information prepared by the New Mexico Investigative Support Center at the request of BIA/LES.

It should be noted that some agencies chose not to respond to some of the questions or to not answer them in full. Additionally, some agencies responded to Question #1, "What drug poses the greatest threat to your reservation?" with multiple responses. For purposes of the analysis, if methamphetamine was indicated, it was included in the data for the meth category.

The following agencies responded to the survey and the information is based upon that response:

BIA UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBE
KALISPEL TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
SAC AND FOX NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT (KANSAS)
CHOCTAW NATION TRIBAL POLICE
PYRAMID LAKE POLCE DEPARTMENT
COMANCHE NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT
WESTERN NEVADA AGENCY OLES
CREEK NATION/MUSKOGEE
POARCH CREEK TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
BIA UINTAH/OURAY RESERVATION
SILETZ TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
YAVAPAI-APACHE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI PD
COLORADO RIVER TRIBES PD
WHITE EARTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX LES DEPARTMENT
TULALIP TRIBAL POLICE

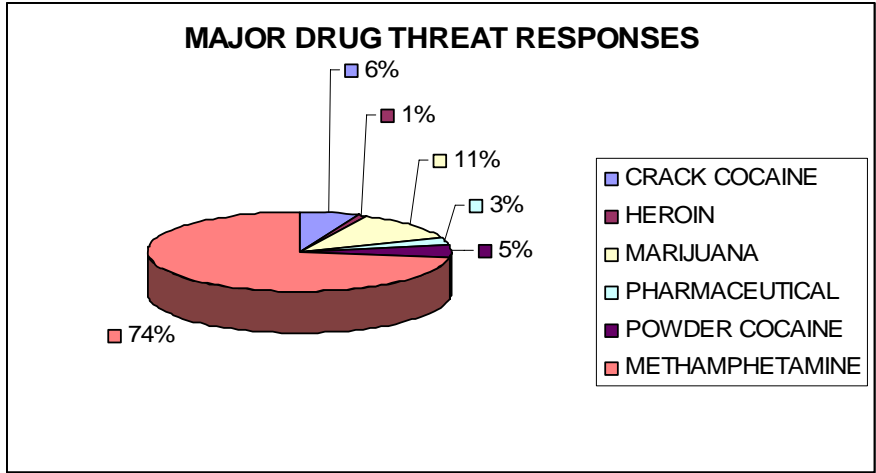
SOUTHERN UTE POLICE DEPARTMENT
ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBAL PD
FORT BERTHOLD AGENCY OLES
CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBAL POLICE DEPT.
PUEBLO OF JEMEZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
PAIUTE SHOSHONE DPS FALLON, NV
FORT HALL POLICE DEPARTMENT
MESCALERO AGENCY OLES
MILLE LACS TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
NAVAJO NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEZ PERCE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUYALLUP TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHEROKEE NATION MARSHALL SERVICE
SAN JUAN TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
OMAHA NATION LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
TURTLE MOUNTAIN AGENCY OLES
WIND RIVER AGENCY OLES
SAC AND FOX NATION PD
LOVELOCK PAIUTE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA PD
TONTON APACHE POLICE DEPARTMENT
BAY MILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT
LOWER ELWHA TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
NETT LAKE AGENCY OLES
TONKAWA TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
RAMAH NAVAJO POLICE DEPARTMENT
UPPER SKAGIT POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOH RIVER AGENCY OLES
IOWA TRIBAL PD OF KANSAS/NEBRASKA
NORTHERN PUEBLOS AGENCY OLES
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
FORT BELKNAP LAW ENFORCEMENT
FORT TOTTEN AGENCY OLES
YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT
GRAND TRAVERSE BAND
BIA KIOWA/APACHE/CADDON/WICHITA/DELAWARE/FT SILL
APACHE
SOUTHERN PUEBLOS AGENCY
WALKER RIVER TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY POLICE DEPARTMENT
MIAMI AGENCY OLES
YAVAPAI-PRESCOTT TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
MENOMINEE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOPI AGENCY OLES
CROW CREEK AGENCY OLES
STANDING ROCK AGENCY OLES
COEUR D' ALENE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
WEWOKA AGENCY OLES
HUALAPAI NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUEBLO OF SANDIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
LA PUSH POLICE DEPARTMENT
ISLETA POLICE DEPARTMENT
IOWA TRIBE OF OKALHOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRUXTON CANON AGENCY OLES
HANNAHVILLE TRIBAL PD
BIA YANKTON SIOUX LES
BURNS PAIUTE TRIBAL PD
YOMBA SHOSHONE TRIBAL POLCE DEPARTMENT
LAS VEGAS PAIUTE TRIBE
PASCUA YAQUI POLICE DEPARTMENT
ONEIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT
RED CLIFF PD
CHITIMACHA TRIBAL PD
LAC DU FLAMBEAU TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
EASTERN NEVADA AGENCY
METLAKATLA POLICE DEPARTMENT
SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
SWINOMISH POLICE DEPARTMENT
ZUNI TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW POLICE DEPARTMENT
PLEASANT POINT PASSUMAQUADDY POLICE DEPARTMENT
WELLS BAND TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
TOHONO O' ODHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
YERINGTON PAIUTE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
MASHANTUCKET TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
PAWNEE NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT

1.) What drug poses the greatest threat to your reservation?

74 % of all respondents indicated that methamphetamine poses the greatest threat to the members of the communities they serviced. This is followed by marijuana with a responding percentage of 11%. Crack cocaine and powder cocaine followed with 6% and 5% of responding agencies indicating this as their primary drug problem. Heroin and pharmaceutical drugs rounded out the responses with 3% and 1% respectively.

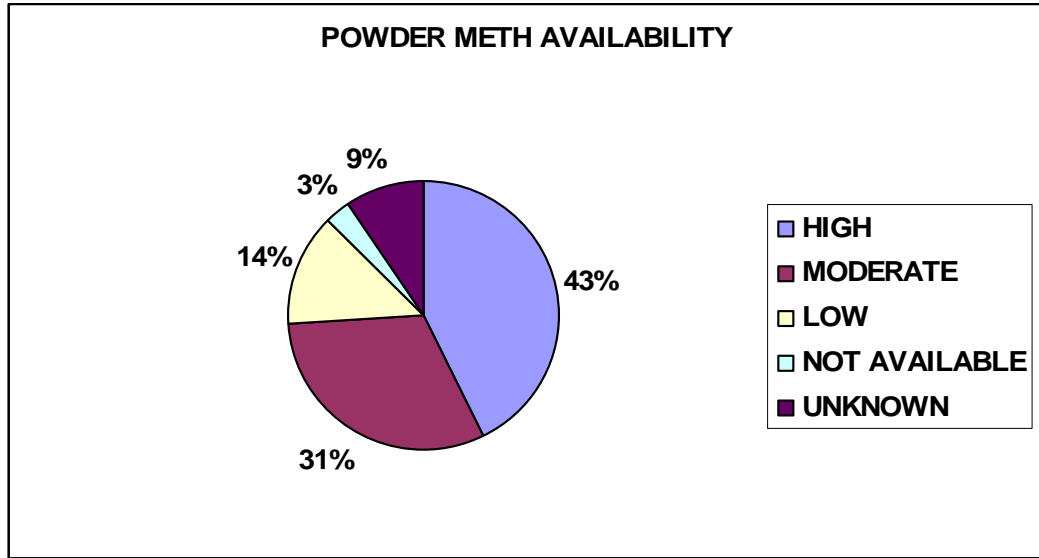
Ecstasy, GHB, Ketamine, Rohypnol, LSD, PCP and Psilocybin mushrooms were included on the choices as well as a miscellaneous response of "Other". None of the responding agencies listed these drugs as their major threat.

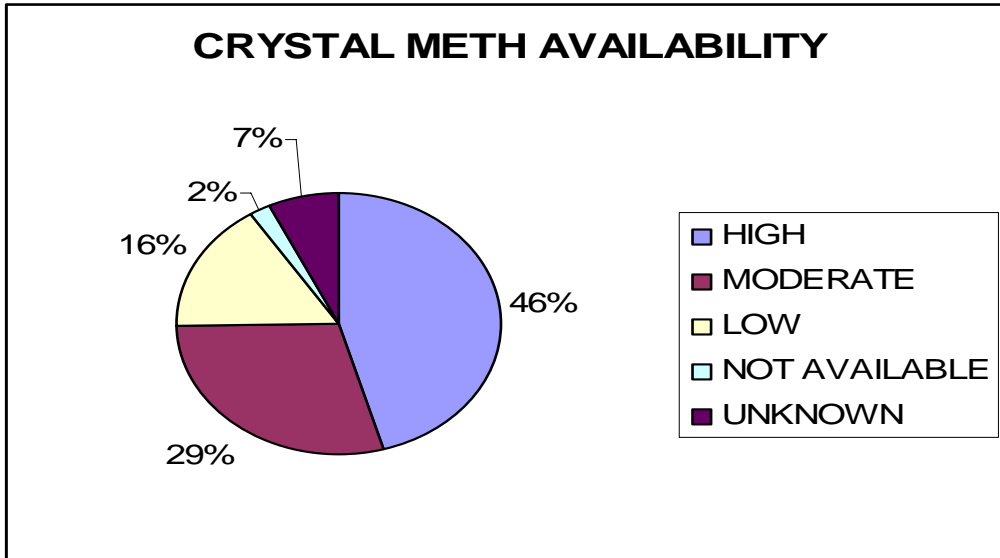


74% of all responding agencies chose methamphetamine as the greatest threat to their communities.

2. – 3.) Indicate the level of availability of powder and crystal (ice) methamphetamine in your area.

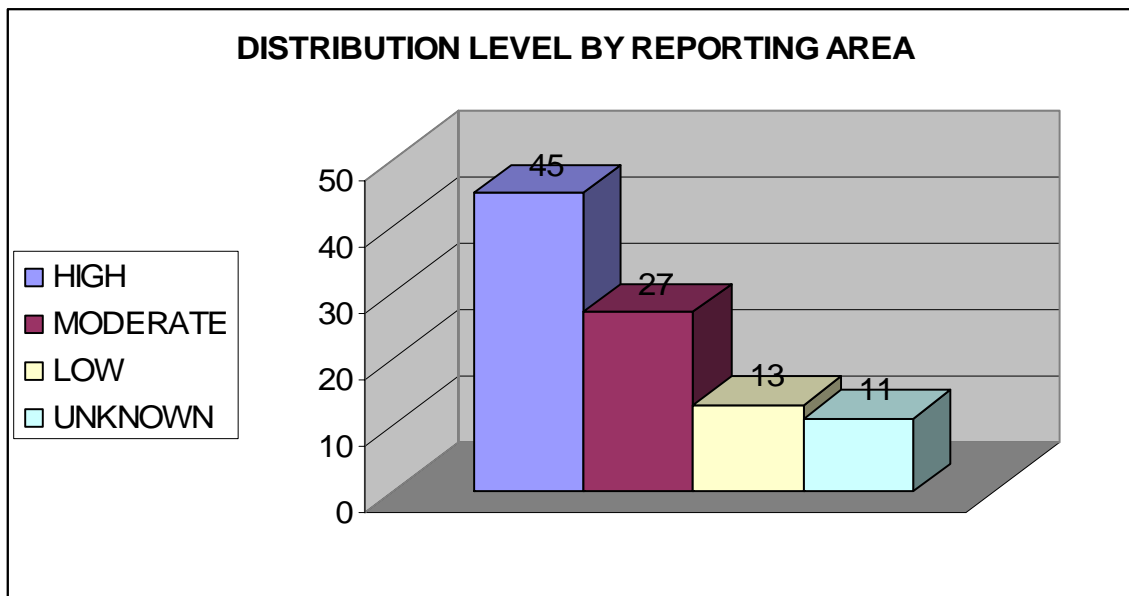
43% of respondents indicated that powder methamphetamine is in high supply levels in their jurisdictions. 46% reported that crystal methamphetamine or “ice” is available in high quantities. 31% described the availability of powder in their areas as “moderate” while 29% reported that “ice” is of moderate availability. The charts below indicate the full break-down by percentage of powder and crystal methamphetamine availability as described by the 96 responding agencies.





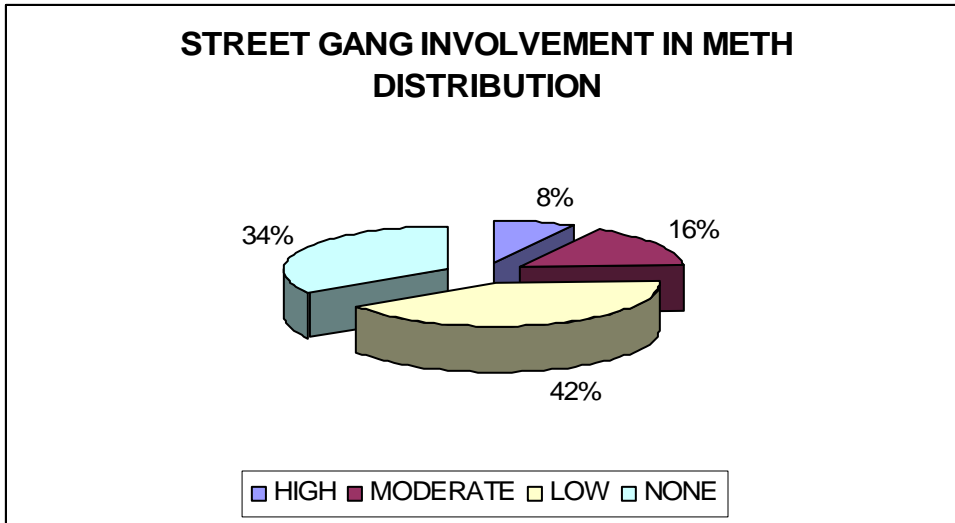
4.) Indicate the level of distribution of methamphetamine in your area.

45 of the responding agencies answered that meth distribution was “high” in their areas. 27 agencies indicated the distribution level as “moderate” while only 13 of the agencies described their distribution level as “low”. 11 of the agencies responded that the level of meth distribution in their communities was not known.



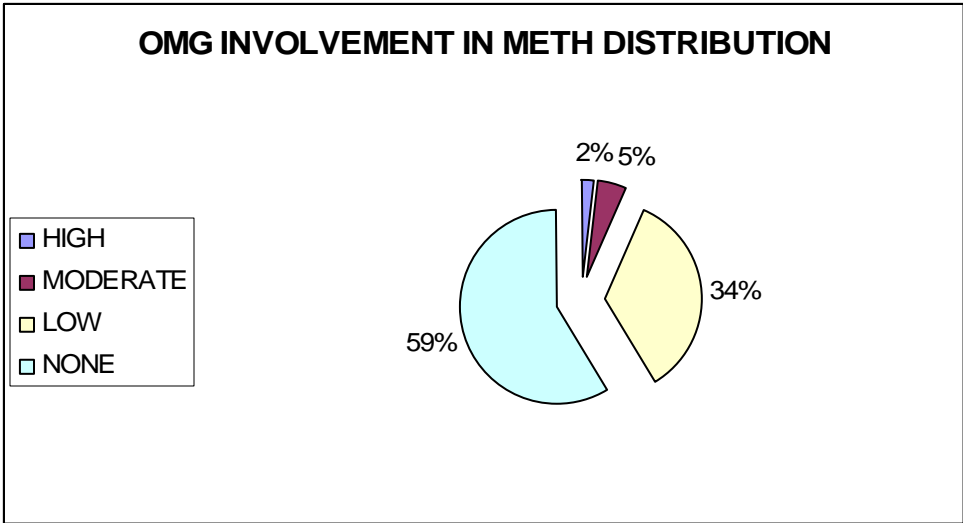
5.) Indicate the level of involvement of street gangs in the distribution of methamphetamine in your area.

Street gang involvement in meth trafficking was reported as relatively low on the responding reservations with only 8% describing the involvement level as “high”. 16% of responses listed street gang meth activity as “moderate” while the highest percentage (46%) of agencies listed street gang involvement as “low”. The second highest response with 34% was that there was no street gang involvement in meth distribution at all to their knowledge.



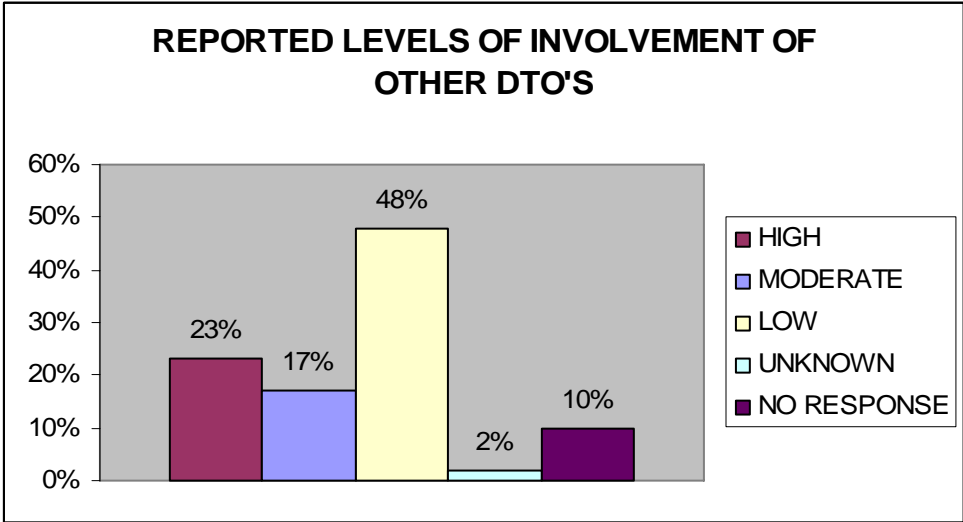
6.) Indicate the level of involvement of outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG) in the distribution of methamphetamine in your area.

The involvement of OMG's in the distribution of methamphetamine on Indian Lands was reported as insignificant. 59% of respondents listed the involvement level as “none” while only 2% reported the problem as “high”. The further breakdown of responses is represented in the graph below.



7.) Indicate the level of involvement of other drug trafficking organizations (DTO) in the distribution of methamphetamine in your area.

The majority of responding agencies listed the involvement of other DTO's in their methamphetamine threat as minimal with 48% answering "low" for this question. 23%, however, responded that DTO's other than street gang or outlaw motorcycle gangs were having a significant impact on their communities. 17% of responses listed the problem as moderate while 10% indicated no involvement from other types of DTO's. 10% of the agencies returning the questionnaire did not respond to this question.



In addition to the standard responses of "high", "moderate" and "low" the agencies were given a chance to indicate the ethnicity of these drug trafficking organizations. 51 of the 96 responding agencies did not submit a response to this question. The results submitted by the other 45 respondents varied greatly and are difficult to easily categorize.

17 of the 45 respondents to this question listed the primary ethnicity of the DTO's as solely Hispanic. 12 of the 45 indicated that the methamphetamine DTO's impacting their areas were a mixture of Hispanic members and various other ethnic groups such as Caucasian (or Anglo), Black, Asian and Native American. Three of the responses indicated only "Non-Native American". Two agencies listed DTO impact made up solely of Caucasian members while two separate agencies reported an impact of DTO's made up solely of Native Americans and Asians. One response indicated only "all ethnics" while two agencies responded with "unknown". **(Analyst's Note: The prevalence of Hispanic individuals impacting methamphetamine distribution is not unusual considering that currently the majority of methamphetamine used in the United States is manufactured in Mexico and distributed into and throughout the U.S. by Mexican-based organizations. Once the drug filters down past the wholesale level, a wider variety people from many ethnic groups will have access to marketing the drug in mid-level and street-level markets.)**

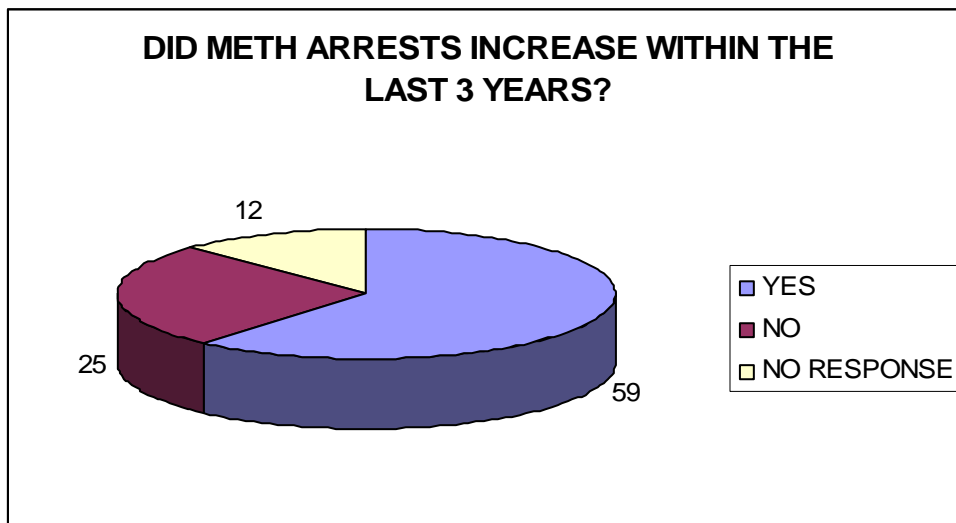
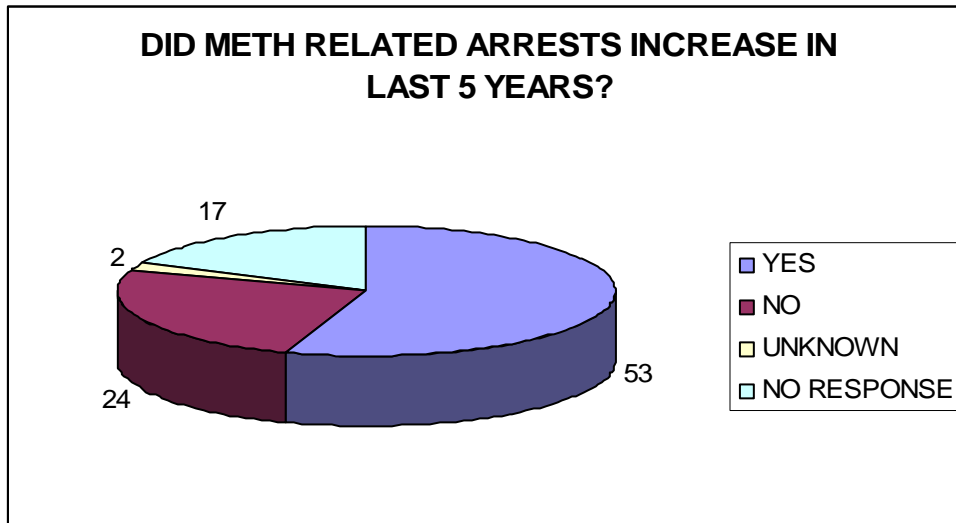
8.) Have any of the following crimes increased because of the presence of methamphetamine in your area? (domestic violence, burglary crimes, homicides, assault/battery, child neglect/abuse, elderly abuse, armed robbery, sexual crimes, weapons violations)

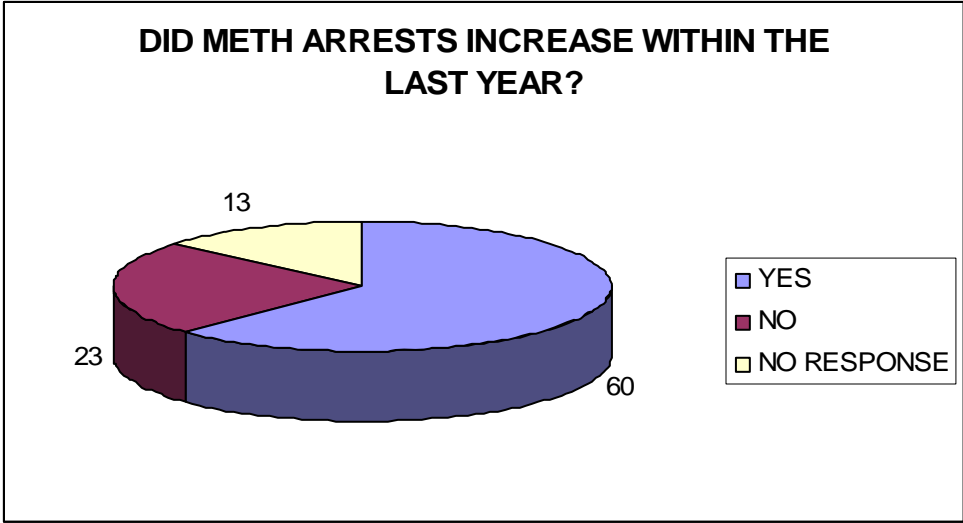
Out of the 96 questionnaire respondents, only one agency failed to provide any data on this question. The following is a breakdown of the responses from the other 95 agencies that indicated an increase in these specific crimes:

- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....64%**
- BURGLARY CRIMES.....57%**
- HOMICIDES..... 4%**
- ASSAULT/BATTERY.....64%**
- CHILD NEGLECT/ABUSE.....48%**
- ELDERLY ABUSE.....24%**
- ARMED ROBBERY..... 2%**
- SEXUAL CRIMES.....22%**
- WEAPONS VIOLATIONS.....31%**

9.) Have arrests where methamphetamine was involved increased in your area in the last 5 years? In the last 3 years? Within the last year?

The following graphs provide the responses from all 96 respondents to the questionnaire. The response is reported on the graph by the number of agencies giving each response:

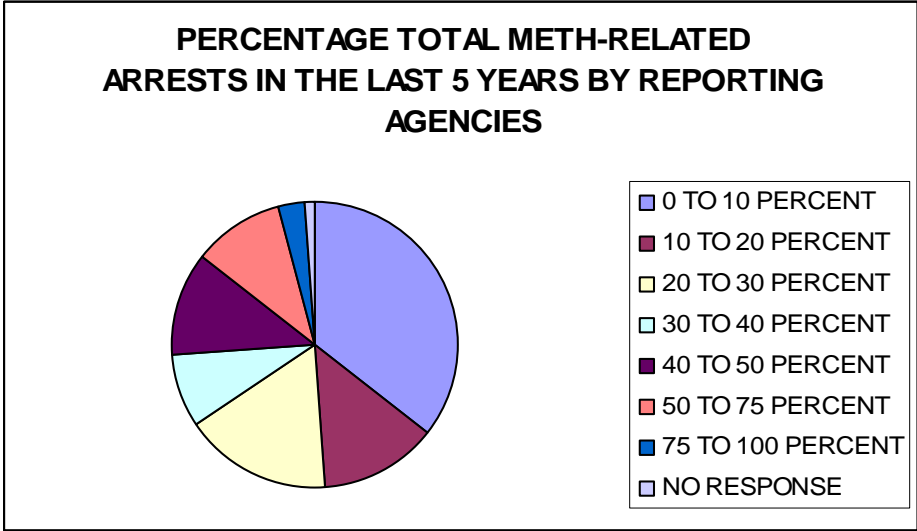




It is very clear from the graphs that meth-related arrests have been on a steady increase over the past five years on Indian Lands. The percentage of increase during each of the surveyed periods hovers close to 60 %.

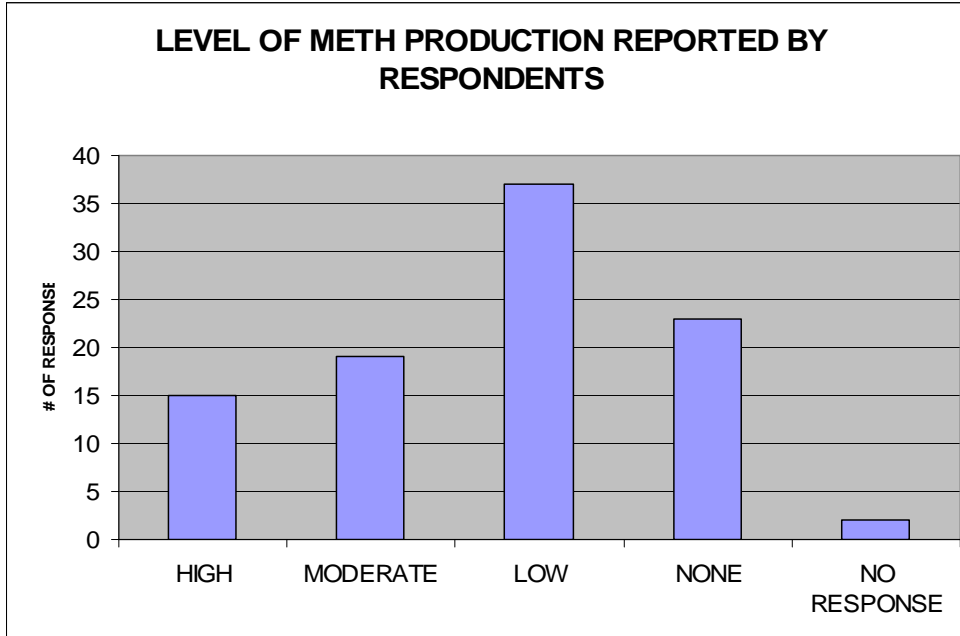
10.) In your best estimate, what percentage of the total arrests made in your area in the last five years are methamphetamine related?

The majority of respondents to the questionnaire indicated that the percentage of meth-related arrests during the previous 5 year period made up 0%-10% of their total arrest activity as 34 of the 96 agencies reported this amount. 13 agencies reported 10%-20% of their arrests were methamphetamine related. 16 agencies listed their total meth-related arrest data as 20%-30% while only 8 agencies reported their figures at 30%-40%. The next two categories are very close with 11 agencies reporting 40%-50% and 10 agencies reporting 50%-75%. Only 3 agencies reported their methamphetamine related arrests made up more than 75% of their total activity. One agency did not respond to the question.



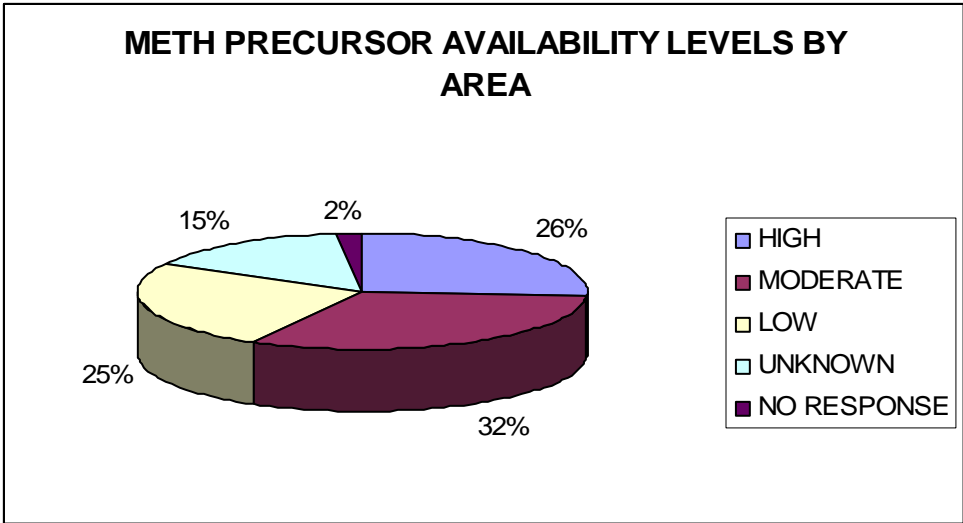
11.) Indicate the level of methamphetamine production in your area.

The majority of agencies responding indicated meth production in their areas as low, with 37 agencies reporting this level of activity. Moderate production activity was second with 19 agencies indicating that level. 23 agencies reported no meth production activity while 15 agencies listed their production activity as high. Two of the 96 respondents did not provide any information on this issue.



12.) Indicate the level of availability of methamphetamine precursors in your area.

25 of the 96 respondents listed precursor availability as high, representing 26% of the responses. The majority of responses received indicated moderate availability with 31 agencies, or 32%, reporting this level. 24 agencies (25%) indicated low availability and 14 agencies (15%) stated the precursor availability was unknown in their jurisdictions. 2 of the responses (2%) did not provide this information.



13.) Does your Tribe facilitate or sponsor a methamphetamine rehabilitation center or program?

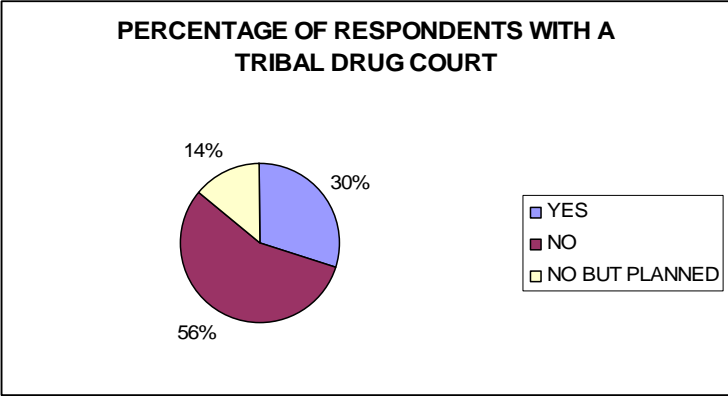
66 of the 96 responses received related that they had no Tribal sponsored center or program. This accounts for a large percentage of the respondents at 69%. The remaining 31% of respondents indicated they do sponsor such programs.

14.) Has your Tribe established an interagency/community prevention coalition or task force to address methamphetamine issues?

34% of responding agencies answered in the affirmative to this question while 47% indicated negative responses. 19% of the 96 agencies indicated that while no initiative exists at this time, one or more are in the planning stages.

15.) Does your Tribe facilitate a drug court?

Only 30% of the responding agencies currently have a Tribal drug court program. 56% listed no program; however 14% of the total responses indicated that a drug court program was planned within their Tribal governments.



16.) Is your agency part of any interagency or regional law enforcement task force to address methamphetamine issues?

49% currently participate in a task force addressing meth issues while 38% responded that they do not participate in such an initiative. 13% of the total respondents indicated that they plan to join a task force in the future. One agency (1%) did not respond.

17.) Is your agency in need of drug investigation related training?

There was no ambiguity in the overall response to this question with 90% of the respondents indicating that they are in need of training in counter-drug investigations. 9% indicated no training was needed and 1% did not respond to the question.

18-19.) Has the use of methamphetamine in your area increased the workload of public safety staff? If yes, indicate how in the listed four categories.

58% of respondents indicated the methamphetamine problem they face is causing an increase in the workload of public safety workers. Of these 56 agencies reporting this increase, the following areas were identified:

Resulted in paying more overtime.....75%

Resulted in a change of assignments.....66%

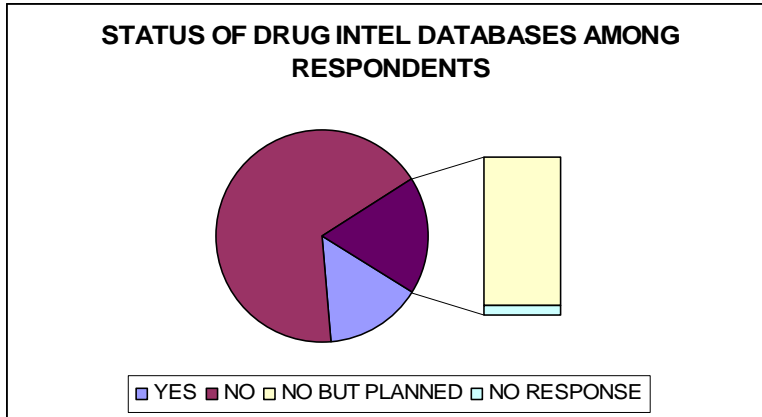
Resulted in longer shifts.....57%

Other than the above..... 7%

38% of the responses listed no change in the workload as a result of methamphetamine while 4% provided no response to this question.

20.) Does your agency have a drug intelligence database?

An overwhelming 68% of responses to this question were negative. Only 15 % of the agencies polled stated they currently utilize such a database and 17% reported that they plan to establish an intelligence database in the future.



ANALYST'S SUMMARY

It is clear that the majority of the Tribes responding to the survey face a significant threat from the scourge of methamphetamine. This is the most addictive drug in wide use in the United States today and demand is increasing at an alarming rate. The impact on Indian Lands reflects the same threat faced by all U.S. law enforcement agencies and, likewise, a comprehensive approach is needed to combat the problem.

The majority of reporting agencies describe availability of methamphetamine in their jurisdictions at a high level. While the respondents claim that involvement by street gangs, OMG's and other DTO's are at low levels, they also identify that the majority of the ethnic demographic involved is Hispanic people, followed by Caucasians, African-Americans and other Native American peoples. As noted earlier, the majority of meth introduced into the country is now coming from high supply level Mexican organizations and is being distributed by their cells within the United States. This also accounts for the reporting of low levels of meth production as Mexican methamphetamine is generally of higher quality and is readily available.

The responding agencies reported significant increases in instances of domestic violence, burglary, assault and child abuse as a direct result of methamphetamine use. This also reflects the national trend data reported at the present time. Agencies in Indian Country should also be prepared to address the issue of identity theft and fraud as these types of crimes have risen dramatically during the past few years as meth users search for new ways to fund their addiction.

A significant percentage of the responses indicated that these agencies do not have mechanisms in place to deal with meth offenders such as community prevention initiatives, Tribal drug courts and interagency enforcement task forces. A resounding 90% stated they are in need of training in drug investigation techniques. These are all programs that must be enhanced in order to assist Indian law enforcement in their struggle to gain control over the methamphetamine issue by supplementing enforcement efforts.

Slightly over half of the respondents listed methamphetamine as causing an increase in public safety workload with the most prevalent effect being an increase in the payment of overtime for peace officers and other public safety workers. Necessitated changes in assignments and longer shifts come in a close second and third in concern to these agencies.

Lastly, most agencies responding do not have access to an intelligence database. The retention of information on targets, associated persons, properties, vehicles, etc. can be a significant advantage in drug investigations, many of which are intelligence driven. The establishment of such a database, or access to such a system could move many of these agencies' counter-drug efforts forward.

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